(c) and (d) On account of the price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market as well as the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel, the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel cannot be ruled out. Generally, diesel is adulterated with kerosene. During 2005-06, the Customs Department has not effected any seizure of kerosene for reason of its beign used/ intended to be used as an adulterant.

(e) In order to eventually eliminate the diversion of PDS kerosene for adulteration, the Government has taken the following steps:—

(i) The Government has approved a pilot project for radically revamping the PDS kerosene network. One of the salient features of the scheme is that supplies to the sub-wholesale points will be made under the direct supervision and responsibility of the Oil Marketing Companies [OMC]s.

(ii) In order to monitor the movement of Tank Trucks transporting PDS Kerosene, the Government has advised the OMCs to install Global Positioning Systems that enable tracking of the vehicles on real time basis.

(iii) The import of Kerosene has been canalized since 25.11.2003 through State Trading Enterprises such as indian Oil Company, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. etc. for all purposes and also through the State Trading Corporation by Advance License Holders. Since November 2003, there has been no import of kerosene by private agencies who were earlier allowed to import and market kerosene under the Parallel Marketing System.

Marking of Kerosene

*233. SHRI EKNATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry, in a serious bid to curb a large scale adulteration of petroleum products, would implement marking of kerosene in the first phase, across the country from October 1st;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would introduce marking of potential adulterants at refineries/manufacturing units and import locations all over the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (c) The public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) propose to implement the Market System in Kerosene all over the country by 1st October 2006. Under the proposed system, the marker will be dosed in kerosene at the terminals/depots of OMCs. Samples of diesel and petrol would be drawn to detect whether the same have been adulterated with the marked kerosene. In case of detection, necessary punitive action would be taken by the OMCs.

Inefficient Labour Force in Banks

*234. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently released Asian Banking Outlook-2006 by Moody's Investor Service has commented on the inflexible and inefficient labour force in Indian Public Sector Banks blunting their competitive edge with private sector banks;

(b) whether during the frequent wage revision negotiations with the bank employee unions, the Indian Banks Association has even attempted to link remunerative package to productivity and efficiency;

(c) whether despite this low work output, Government are considering to introduce Employees' Stock Option Schemes for the bank employees; and

(d) if so, the rationale and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Moody's Investors Service in its report relating to the Asia Banking Outlook, 2006 (June 2006) while commenting on the rating outlook for India has made a referece to certain aspects of the labour force that, according to that report, hampers the competitiveness of Government owned Banks.